

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A server device capable of accessing a hypermedia-data client device through a network, comprising:

a metadata storage unit to store metadata having information related to contents of an image corresponding to each of time stamps of a moving image to be played back by the client device;

a time-stamp receiving unit to receive the time stamp of the image to be played back, the time stamp being transmitted from the client device; and

a metadata transmission unit to transmit the stored metadata to the client device by streaming distribution in synchronization with the playback of the image in accordance with the received time stamp;

the metadata including:

object-area data specifying the area of an object appearing in the image corresponding to the time stamp; and

data specifying contents to be displayed when the area specified by the object-area data is designated, or an action to be performed when the area specified by the object-area data is designated;

the server device further comprising a position-correspondence table storage unit to store a position-correspondence table in which the time stamp and the storage position of metadata related to the time stamp are in correspondence with each other, and when a plurality of metadata appear in a same time stamp, only metadata earliest in a sequence of transmission is maintained, and other of the plurality of metadata are deleted;

wherein upon receiving a playback start time for the moving image, the metadata transmission unit sequentially sends the metadata by streaming distribution from the metadata storage position specified with reference to the position-correspondence table.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A server device according to claim 12, wherein the metadata transmission unit adjusts a timer time to be used when the metadata to be distributed and a distribution timing therefor are determined, in accordance with the received time stamp.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A server device according to claim 12, wherein when the metadata to be distributed and a distribution timing therefor are determined, the metadata transmission unit determines a transmission timing of partial data in the metadata by using a data-transmission interval calculated from a timer time and data transfer speed of the streaming distribution and an allowed time difference between the time stamp and the partial data of the metadata to be next transmitted.

Claims 15-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method of transmitting data in a server device capable of accessing a hypermedia-data client device through a network, comprising:

storing metadata having information related to contents of an image corresponding to each of time stamps of a moving image to be played back by the client device;

receiving the time stamp of the image to be played back, the time stamp being transmitted from the client device; and

transmitting the stored metadata to the client device by streaming distribution in synchronization with the playback of the image in accordance with the received time stamp;

the metadata including:

object-area data specifying the area of an object appearing in the image corresponding to the time stamp; and

data specifying contents to be displayed when the area specified by the object-area data is designated, or an action to be performed when the area specified by the object-area data is designated;

the method further comprising storing a position-correspondence table in which the time stamp and the storage position of metadata related to the time stamp are in correspondence with each other, and when a plurality of metadata appear in a same time stamp, only metadata earliest in a sequence of transmission is maintained, and other of the plurality of metadata are deleted;

wherein upon receiving playback start time for the moving image, the transmitting the stored metadata sequentially sends the metadata by streaming distribution from the metadata storage position specified with reference to the position-correspondence table.

Claim 19 (Canceled).